

In addition, it provides incentives for both small and large landowners through the implementation of tax credits, deferrals and deductions for habitat protection. It provides assurance to landowners that wish to engage in activities that may damage habitat, while ensuring that taxpayers are not left to pay the costs of mitigating that damage. It also encourages ecosystem planning on a regional basis through the development of multiple landowner, multiple species conservation plans.

This bill is endorsed by more than 300 environmental, religious, fishing, consumer, and scientific organizations representing millions of people across the country who overwhelmingly support the recovery of endangered species. It is only through this kind of modification that land owners, developers and others will receive the assurances under the ESA that they require to make long term business decisions. If we do not make these changes to the law, we might save the Act, but we won't save species.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT REAUTHORIZATION BILL

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Older Americans Act has been reauthorized 12 times since its enactment in 1965. However, this historically bipartisan initiative, which provides vital services to millions of needy seniors across the country, has been held hostage to partisan politics the last several years and as such, has not been authorized since 1995. However, I hold much hope for its reauthorization during the 106th Congress.

Last week, I joined my colleagues—Mr. CLAY, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. McKEON, and Mr. BARRETT—in introducing a bipartisan Older Americans Act reauthorization bill. This bill, I am confident, is the first step in a joint process to strengthen and improve the Older Americans Act.

Although I do not doubt that Members will have differences of opinion as we proceed with the process of reauthorizing the many programs and services provided under the Older Americans Act, I am encouraged by this very bipartisan beginning and by the commitment demonstrated thus far to working through those differences keeping the best interest of those who are served by the Act—the seniors—in the forefront.

MCDONALD COUNTY, MISSOURI CELEBRATES SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, today begins a year long celebration of McDonald County, Missouri's sesquicentennial.

McDonald County is tucked away in the very southwest corner of my congressional

district, bounded on the south by our good neighbors in Arkansas and our friends in Oklahoma on the west. McDonald County is noted for its friendly folks and scenic beauty. Clear streams and majestic limestone bluffs have long been attractions for sightseers and were prominent in the stories of early settlers. Add to that the booming economy and you have an All-American place to raise a family, start a business and put down or carefully nurture "roots." The population in McDonald County, now over 20,000, is growing at more than 14% a year making it one of Missouri's fastest growing counties in its 150th year.

Only a few hundred people called McDonald County, Missouri home when it was organized on March 3, 1849. It was named after Revolutionary War hero Alexander McDonald, a sergeant in the Continental Army. This year a series of events and observances will mark the county's milestone. March 3 is McDonald County History Day observed at all county buildings. Students will participate in art and history exhibits, and there are picnics, parades and festivities planned throughout the year.

The county seat at Pineville celebrates "Jesse James Days" in August by reliving the 1938 filming of "Jesse James," a movie production that brought stars Henry Fonda, Tyrone Power and Randolph Scott to McDonald County. In October the limestone bluffs and clear streams become the backdrop for some of North America's best fall foliage.

McDonald County is a place for families and small towns. Nearly 70 percent of the households are married families; half of those have children at home. The largest towns in McDonald County—Pineville, Anderson, Lanagan, Noel, Jane and Southwest City—had fewer than 2,000 people each at the last census.

McDonald County schools are meeting the growth in population with the construction of new schools all over the county—and they are doing it without federal handouts or new taxes (something Washington could learn from). The school system is financially stable and is "paying as it goes." County and city governments are also keeping up with the growth with a positive eye on the future. Economic development and infrastructure needs are constantly scrutinized and considered.

The economy is strong. A number of new businesses are springing up. A \$53-million poultry industry makes McDonald County the leading livestock producing county in Missouri. Many of its residents work in McDonald County, but some commute to work in other places in a growing Southwest Missouri.

McDonald County is in America's heartland. Within a hundred miles there are lakes and streams like Table Rock Lake and Roaring River, as well as the Mark Twain National Forest and live entertainment in Branson. There is a diversity of good jobs and professions, churches of many faiths and institutions of higher learning that abound in the region. McDonald County is a great place to live and work.

Happy Sesquicentennial, McDonald County, Missouri.

CONGRATULATING SANTA CLARA COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to congratulate the exceptional people and groups in Santa Clara County who have earned the Human Relations Award. The award, presented last week by the Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission, recognizes their exceptional service to the community in the area of human and civil rights.

The honorees are a diverse group—people of different ages, nationalities, languages, colors, and cultures—united by their efforts to improve the lives of those in need. They make an important difference in the community and are an inspiration to us all.

The Human Relations Award recipients are: Mary Bernier, a full-time volunteer who works to make the community aware of major social and economic issues.

Cathy Bouchard, who assists people with developmental disabilities reach their potential and realize their dreams.

Meg Bowman, a true community activist, educator, and untiring advocate on behalf of women.

Don Burt, M.D., a doctor who volunteers regularly at the Rota Care Clinic in Morgan Hill and works to promote better relationships between various cultural and ethnic groups.

Rita and Larry Demkowsky, who serve the poor and needy through Loaves and Fishes.

Dzung C. Do, an attorney at Asian Law Alliance who has helped over 16 different language groups work toward citizenship.

Barbara Emerich, who advocates for children and quality public education as an active member of the 6th District PTA, League of Women Voters, and Violence Prevention Council.

Cliff M. Eppard, who works to assure that basic food, safety, and financial needs are offered to seniors and others.

Nancy Flanagan, who has united the board and staff of Alliance for Community Care, a consolidation of three major mental health agencies.

Experanza Garcia-Walters, who has made significant contributions through her years of community involvement with the Latino Nurses Association, Planned Parenthood, and the Hispanic Foundation.

Victor Garza, who has long shown true dedication to the community in a number of roles. He is a former member and Chair of the Human Relations Commission; founder and Chair of La Raza Roundtable; Vice Chair of the Mexican Heritage Corporation; and volunteer with the American GI Forum, America Heart Association, and E.O.P. Advisory Board of the Evergreen Valley-San Jose Community College District. Victor is always ready to work towards building a community of respect and concern for all.

Andrew Gonzales, the past president of La Raza Lawyers Association, has established a scholarship banquet for incoming law students